

# NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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*For Immediate Release*

*MAY 18, 2004*

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 17, 2004, **SHAWN J. RUSSELL**, age 25, formerly of 2873 Iola Lane, Iola, Illinois, **SHAWN M. WOLFF**, age 30, of 1101 W. St. Louis Street, Effingham, Illinois, **TRAVIS TARRANT**, age 25, of 9422 E. Hwy. 45, Effingham, Illinois, **TRAVIS ELAM**, age 30, formerly of Effingham County, Illinois, and **DAMON SKAGGS**, age 24, formerly of Effingham County, Illinois, pled guilty in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, to a Superseding Indictment charging them with Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The violation took place continuously from approximately January 2001, through approximately November 2003, in Effingham, Cumberland, Clay and Fayette Counties in Illinois.

The offense carries with it a penalty of not less than 10 years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment, a \$4 million fine, or both, and at least 5 years' mandatory supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for August 19, 2004, at the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, for **SHAWN J. RUSSELL, SHAWN M. WOLFF, TRAVIS M. TARRANT, and TRAVIS L. ELAM**. Sentencing is scheduled for August 26, 2004, for **DAMON SKAGGS**.

Co-conspirators in the case who have previously pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute, and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine are **THOMAS CURRY**, age 23, of 54 Easy Breeze, Effingham, Illinois, and **CASEY ARTERBURN**, age 22, of 700 Ash Street, Edgewood, Illinois. Both **THOMAS CURRY** and **CASEY ARTERBURN** are scheduled to be sentenced on July 15, 2004. The case remains pending against **ANDREW T. WELLS**, age 22, of 701 Madison Street, Farina, Illinois, **KEVIN M. BARNFIELD**, age 25, formerly of Altamont, Illinois, currently residing in Del-Valle, Texas, and **CHARLES R. LOGSDON, a.k.a. "Rooster,"** age 45, of 701 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Charleston, Illinois. The next scheduled court date for **ANDREW T. WELLS, KEVIN M. BARNFIELD, and CHARLES R. LOGSON, a.k.a. "Rooster,"** is June 1, 2004.

The ongoing investigation is being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Effingham County Sheriff's Department, the Effingham City Police Department, and the Illinois State Police Fire Marshal, in cooperation with the Effingham County State's Attorney Ed Deters. The ongoing investigation is conducted as part of the Effingham County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of drugs and guns. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kit Morrissey.